

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. New corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in this application because: the shading, poor contrast and small text used in Figures 10-20 renders the information in the drawings illegible.

Applicant is advised to employ the services of a competent patent draftsman outside the Office, as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office no longer prepares new drawings. The corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The requirement for corrected drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-19 are allowed.

3. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Claims 1, 8, and 18 are allowable over the closest cited prior art of record (Schnellinger et al, US 5642513 A) because "Schnellinger does not disclose 'patch data' separate from the medical imaging information as recited in independent claims 1, 8 and 18. Indeed, to find that the edited medical images corresponded to both the recited medical imaging information and the patch data would impermissibly read one of those elements out of the claim." (See page 4 of BPAI decision mailed 6/2/09)

Claims 2-7, 8-17, and 19 inherit the allowable features of claim 1, 8, and 18 through dependency and are therefore also allowable.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to RACHEL L. PORTER whose telephone number is (571)272-6775. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, (Christopher) Luke Gilligan can be reached on (571) 272-6770. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/R. L. P./
Examiner, Art Unit 3626

/C. Luke Gilligan/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3626